

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 09196 041220Z
ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSCE-00 NSC-05 SP-02 INR-05

CIAE-00 PRS-01 /036 W

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5077

INFO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 9196

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CZ, VT

SUBJ: ELEVATION OF BISHOP TOMASEK TO CARDINAL

1. RELIABLE VATICAN SOURCE HAS INFORMED US THAT POPE PAUL'S ANNOUNCEMENT JUNE 2 OF ELEVATION TO CARDINAL OF BISHOP TOMASEK, THE APOSTOLIC ADMINISTRATOR OF PRAGUE, WAS PRECEDED BY CONFIDENTIAL CONSULTATIONS WITH GOC, THAT GOC WAS PLEASED WITH PRIOR CONSULTATIONS, AND THAT AS A CONSEQUENCE IS PREPARED TO INITIATE DIALOGUE WITH VATICAN ON "NORMALIZATION" OF RELATIONS.

2. VATICAN HAS BEEN ASSURED THAT GOC IS WILLING TO FOLLOW HUNGARIAN EXAMPLE IN CHURCH/STATE RELATIONS (E.G. ALLOWING VATICAN TO FILL BISHOP VACANCIES, CREATE NEW DIOCESES, AND IN GENERAL IMPROVE CHURCH'S ABILITY TO CARRY ON ITS SPIRITUAL MISSION). VATICAN BELIEVES THAT RUSSIANS HAVE TOLD GOC THAT VATICAN OPENING WOULD IMPROVE ITS IMAGE WITH RESPECT TO HELSINKI FINAL ACT.

3. AS FIRST STEP IN PROCESS, VATICAN EXPERT ON CZECH
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AFFAIRS (FATHER JOHN BUKOVSKY) IS DEPARTING JUNE 7 FOR PRAGUE. HE HAS GOC PERMISSION TO TRAVEL THROUGHOUT COUNTRY TO INTERVIEW AND SCREEN CANDIDATES FOR BISHOP VACANCIES. GARDNER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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